



March 7, 2021

Dear Awards Committee

I am pleased to nominate John I. “Hans” Gilderbloom for the UofL A&S Outstanding Award for Research and Creative Activity. John has long been a most productive urban scholar, urban policy practitioner, and supporter of the UofL Urban mission. Here are just a few brief summaries of his activities that demonstrate his prominence in the field of urban affairs.

- Dr. Gilderbloom is a Professor Planning, Public Administration, Public Health, and Urban Affairs program at the University of Louisville, where he also directs the Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods (<http://sun.louisville.edu>).
- Since 1976 he has been credited as a major player in getting passed and defending the enactment of tenant protections against unfair evictions and unreasonable rents in over 125 cities including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and over 100 New Jersey cities.
- His research on the housing and transportation needs of the disabled and elderly provided a justification for Congress to pass the Americans Disability Act according to Planning Magazine.
- He has also demonstrated his ability to partner with non-profits, government, developers and banks to create and renovate attractive, affordable, and sustainable homes in neighborhoods. He has also linked this success to traffic calming by converting fast multi-lane one-way streets into calmer two-way streets for greater walkability, biking and transit use.
- He encourages neighborhood regeneration by empowering grassroots citizens to create livable neighborhoods by cleaning up graffiti and litter as well as painting and repairing homes.
- He was an effective advocate for ending the U.S. Embargo of Cuba testifying in the US Senate. The State Department also asked him visit Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Russia on a friendship tour.
- His research has encouraged cities to take a more active role in reducing air, water and ground pollution, improving the life span, prosperity, housing, and health of those communities.
- Since earning his Ph.D., Gilderbloom’s research in urban sustainability has appeared in eight co-authored or edited books or journals, 63 scholarly peer-reviewed journals, 30 chapters in edited books, 11 monographs and 31 opinion pieces in newspapers and magazines including: Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Sun-Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Courier-Journal, and USA Today Magazine. The New York Times (among other newspapers in the Netherlands, Japan and Russia) ran a Sunday feature of his work on renewing poor neighborhoods.
- He is a Fellow of the Scholars Strategy Network housed at Harvard.
- He served on the board of Directors of the Neighborhood Development Corp for twenty years focusing on renovation of historic homes in West Louisville.
- He was recently nominated as one of the 100 most influential urbanist in the world by Planetizen

John has also long been an active supporter of regeneration of West Louisville. John brings a wealth and diversity of experiences that would make him a valuable advocate for other down and out Kentucky cities.. He is eager to serve. I hope you will carefully consider this nomination.

Sincerely,

Gregory D. Squires

